

Restaurant Meal Program

Restaurant Information



MDHHS has initiated the Restaurant Meal Program (RMP) in Michigan. Under this program, some recipients of the Food Assistance Program (FAP) may use their benefits to purchase meals from **authorized** restaurants in Michigan. These recipients must be elderly (60 years and over) and/or disabled and/or homeless.

Requirements for an Authorized Restaurant

Restaurants must complete the following two tier process to be authorized to accept FAP benefits under RMP:

- ❖ A restaurant must first be approved by MDHHS. (See *Request to Become an Authorized Restaurant* section below) **and**
- ❖ A restaurant must then be approved to participate in the Food Assistance Program as a retailer by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This approval will be initiated by MDHHS once the MDHHS approval has been completed.

Note: If a restaurant/contractor proposes to serve FAP recipients at more than one site, each site must be included in the request for authorization.

In addition to the MDHHS and FNS approval, restaurants must also meet all the following requirements:

- ❖ Have sit-down seating available (*Unless prohibited by a public health order that would only allow delivery or takeout*).
- ❖ Be fully accessible to persons with disabilities.
- ❖ Be in and maintain compliance with all current federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and/or orders throughout the duration of participation in the program.
- ❖ Provide low-cost meals.
- ❖ Have a point-of-sale device for use by eligible recipients.

If the establishment's primary business is **not** the sale of food, then:

- ❖ Food sales must account for more than 50 percent of a restaurant's total sales for authorization as a communal dining facility.

- ❖ Firms that primarily present themselves to the community as establishments for alcoholic consumption may **not** qualify as communal dining facilities, no matter what percentage of its total sales are for food.
- ❖ Restaurants that are strictly carry-out, or present themselves to the community in that way, may **not** qualify as communal dining facilities, no matter what percentage of its total sales are food sales.

Request to Become an Authorized Restaurant

To request approval to become an Authorized Restaurant:

- ❖ Review and complete the MDHHS MOU [Restaurant Meal Program Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#). Be sure to include all of the following:
 - The **business name** and **complete address (including all requesting sites, if more than one)**.
 - **Meal prices**.
 - **Signature, date, telephone number, and email address**.
 - **A copy of the restaurant's public health operating permit**.
- ❖ Complete the [USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Application for Meals Services \(FNS-252-2 Form\)](#) and provide the requested documents under Attachment A to MDHHS.
- ❖ Email the completed MDHHS MOU and FNS-252-2 form, along with required verifications to MDHHS-RestaurantMealProgram@michigan.gov.

Final Steps

Once a restaurant submits the completed MOU to MDHHS, MDHHS will review the information and approve or deny the request. MDHHS may need to request additional verification(s) from the restaurant during this review process.

If approved by MDHHS, MDHHS will send an authorization request to FNS. FNS will then contact the restaurant with the appropriate material to complete the authorization process.

If denied by MDHHS, MDHHS will inform a requestor of the denial, and the reason(s) for the denial. Restaurants may submit a new MOU to MDHHS at any time following a denial.

For questions regarding the Restaurant Meal Program authorization process, contact MDHHS-RestaurantMealProgram@michigan.gov.

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